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AUTHOR Gracie, Larry W.
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ABSTRACT

Student retention and attrition patterns of entering freshmen at North Carolina State University and a description of transfer student retention and attrition are presented. The status of freshmen entering the college from 1971-1976 is given in terms of: total freshmen, black freshmen, white freshmen, freshmen females, freshmen males, graduation rates, and scores on SAT-V and SAT-M. Data on transfer students are for 1974-76 and are presented by departments. Among the findings are the following: after six years at the university, 57.4 percent of the 1971 cohort had graduated, 8.1 percent has been suspended, 29.5 percent had withdrawn, and 4 percent were still enrolled; approximately 21-26 percent of freshmen withdrew sometime during the first two years of study, with the largest proportion of withdrawals occurring during the freshman year; the retention rate for black freshmen is greater than for total freshmen, with the exception of the 1973 cohort; at the beginning of the fifth, sixth, and seventh years, the graduation percentage of the 1971 and 1972 cohorts were greater than their white counterparts; for each cohort analyzed, females had higher withdrawal rates than males; and progression rates indicate that females continued at a faster rate than males. (SW)

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STUDENT RETENTION AND GRADUATION AT NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Larry W. Gracie

Student Affairs Planning and Research

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This report is part of a continuing series describing the retention and attrition patterns of entering freshmen at N. C. State. Each report details the progress of six cohorts at the beginning of each fall semester since their initial entry. For the three most recent group of freshmen (1974-1976 cohorts), an analysis of their rate of progression is provided.

For the first time this report is providing a description of transfer students retention and attrition at N. C. State (pink pages). These data are an examination of the 1974 cohorts as they enter their fourth year.

Highlights of this Year's Study

After six years at the University, 57.4% of the 1971 cohort had graduated, 8.1% had been suspended, 29.5% had withdrawn, and 4% were still enrolled.

Approximately 21-26% of freshmen withdraw sometime during the first two years of study, with the largest proportion of withdrawals occurring during the freshmen year.

Analysis of progression rates for the 1976 cohort indicates that although 89% were still enrolled at the beginning of Year 2, 63% were progressing at an average rate (i.e. were registered as sophomores).

The retention rate for Black freshmen is greater than for total freshmen, with the exception of the 1973 cohort. At the beginning of the fifth, sixth, and seventh years, the graduation percentage of the 1971 and 1972 Black cohorts are greater than their white counterparts.

For each cohort analyzed, females have higher withdrawal rates than males. Progression rates indicate that females continue at a faster rate than males, thus explaining the higher proportion of females graduating after four years.

The percentage of students progressing at an average or above average rate is increasing.

Freshmen who entered Design as a part of the 1970 cohort have the highest graduation rate (67%). Of the 1971 cohort, Forest Resources students experienced the highest proportion graduating from the same school into which they initially enrolled (54%). Students entering P.A.M.S. and Education are as likely to graduate from another school as from the school in which they initially enrolled. P.A.M.S. and Education students graduating from different schools were 4% greater than those graduating from the school they initially entered.

Graduation rates by Converted High School Rank (CHSR), SAT-Verbal (SATV), SAT-Math (SATM), University Predicted Grade Average (UPGA), and Cumulative First-Year Grade Point Average (CGPA) are reported for the total 1971 Cohort and 1971 Black freshmen. The distribution of percentage graduated based on these predictions are similar to past years. Those students predicting over 3.0 (UPGA is computed from the student's CHSR, SATV, and SATM) had a graduation rate of 80%, while only 48% of those with a UPGA below 2.0 graduated. This trend is even more evident based on cumulative first-year GPA(CGPA). Graduation rates for those with CGPA over 3.0 was 79%, while the graduation rate for those with CGPA below 2.0 was 38%.

TABLE 1

STATUS AT BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR SINCE ENTRY, TOTAL FRESHMEN

Cohort	Status at beginning of:	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
1971	Continuing	79.1%	67.3%	64.5%	25.8%	7.8%	4.8%
	Suspended	5.3	9.8	8.9	8.4	8.3	8.1
	Withdrew	15.4	22.9	25.6	30.9	30.9	29.5
	Graduated	0	0	0.6	34.6	52.9	57.4
	Total N	*2323*					
1972	Continuing	80.8	72.6	69.3	29.8	11.3	
	Suspended	4.6	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.8	
	Withdrew	14.5	21.8	25.1	31.5	31.0	
	Graduated	0	0	0.4	33.5	52.8	
	Total N	*2348*					
1973	Continuing	85.6	77.3	72.0	35.1		
	Suspended	0.8	1.6	2.0	2.0		
	Withdrew	13.5	21.0	25.5	31.9		
	Graduated	0	0	0.3	30.9		
	Total N	*2495*					
1974	Cont.-average rate	36.5	36.4	36.4			
	Cont.-below average rate	49.1	36.6	32.8			
	Suspended	0	0.9	0.8			
	Withdrew	14.3	25.9	29.5			
	Graduated	0	0	0.4			
	Total N	*2821*					
1975	Cont.-average rate	40.6	40.6				
	Cont.-below average rate	43.0	33.1				
	Suspended	0	0				
	Withdrew	16.3	26.1				
	Graduated	0	0				
	Total N	*2813*					
1976	Cont.-average rate	63.3					
	Cont-below average rate	25.8					
	Suspended	0.6					
	Withdrew	10.1					
	Graduated	0					
	Total N	*2513*					

TABLE 2

STATUS AT BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR SINCE ENTRY, BLACK FRESHMEN

Cohort	Status at beginning of:	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
1971	Continuing	86.0%	77.8%	75.0%	19.4%	8.3%	2.8%
	Suspended	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
	Withdrew	11.0	19.4	22.1	38.9	30.5	33.3
	Graduated	0	0	0	38.9	58.3	61.0
	Total N	*36*					
1972	Continuing	85.1	75.9	75.9	27.8	11.0	
	Suspended	7.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	
	Withdrew	7.4	14.8	14.8	25.9	24.0	
	Graduated	0	0	0	37.0	55.5	
	Total N	*54*					
1973	Continuing	88.3	75.0	69.9	31.6		
	Suspended	1.6	3.3	3.3	3.3		
	Withdrew	9.9	21.6	25.0	34.9		
	Graduated	0	0	1.6	29.9		
	Total N	*60*					
1974	Cont.-average rate	31.3	30.5	30.5			
	Cont.-below average rate	56.9	50.6	45.8			
	Suspended	0	0.6	0.6			
	Withdrew	11.8	18.0	22.1			
	Graduated	0	0	0.6			
	Total N	*144*					
1975	Cont.-average rate	39.5	39.5				
	Cont.-below average rate	48.9	46.8				
	Suspended	0	0				
	Withdrew	11.5	13.6				
	Graduated	0	0				
	Total N	*139*					
1976	Cont.-average rate	55.8					
	Cont.-below average rate	38.4					
	Suspended	1.9					
	Withdrew	3.8					
	Graduated	0					
	Total N	*156*					

TABLE 3

STATUS AT BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR SINCE ENTRY, WHITE FRESHMEN

Cohort	Status at beginning of:	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
1971	Continuing	79.1%	67.1%	64.5%	25.8%	7.6%	4.8%
	Suspended	5.3	9.8	9.0	8.5	8.4	8.3
	Withdrew	15.5	22.9	25.6	30.9	30.9	29.3
	Graduated	0	0	0.6	34.6	52.9	57.4
	Total N	*2240*					
1972	Continuing	80.8	72.8	69.4	30.0	11.3	
	Suspended	4.6	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.8	
	Withdrew	14.5	21.8	25.1	31.4	31.0	
	Graduated	0	0	0.4	33.5	52.8	
	Total N	*2257*					
1973	Continuing	85.4	77.3	71.9	35.0		
	Suspended	0.8	1.6	2.0	2.0		
	Withdrew	13.8	21.0	25.6	31.9		
	Graduated	0	0	0.3	30.9		
	Total N	*2390*					
1974	Cont.-average rate	36.6	36.6	36.6			
	Cont.-below average rate	48.9	36.0	32.1			
	Suspended	0	0.9	0.8			
	Withdrew	14.4	26.3	30.1			
	Graduated	0	0	0.3			
	Total N	*2642*					
1975	Cont.-average rate	40.8	40.8				
	Cont.-below average rate	42.5	32.4				
	Suspended	0	0				
	Withdrew	16.5	26.6				
	Graduated	0	0				
	Total N	*2606*					
1976	Cont.-average rate	63.5					
	Cont.-below average rate	25.0					
	Suspended	0.5					
	Withdrew	10.6					
	Graduated	0					
	Total	*2309*					

TABLE 4

STATUS AT BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR SINCE ENTRY, FRESHMEN FEMALES

Cohort	Status at beginning of:	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
1971	Continuing	79.9%	63.0%	57.5%	15.1%	5.8%	3.5%
	Suspended	2.3	6.0	5.4	4.9	4.6	4.6
	Withdrew	17.8	30.8	35.3	41.0	39.4	38.4
	Graduated	0	0	0.5	38.8	50.0	53.3
	Total N	*512*					
1972	Continuing	81.0	68.4	63.9	19.6	6.4	
	Suspended	2.1	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	
	Withdrew	16.6	28.3	31.5	38.1	35.6	
	Graduated	0	0	0.9	38.5	54.4	
	Total N	*544*					
1973	Continuing	81.5	70.9	63.4	20.9		
	Suspended	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.1		
	Withdrew	18.0	27.9	34.6	41.1		
	Graduated	0	0	0.8	36.8		
	Total N	*620*					
1974	Cont.-average rate	39.6	39.3	39.3			
	Cont.-below average rate	44.5	30.1	23.6			
	Suspended	0	0.8	0.8			
	Withdrew	15.8	29.8	35.9			
	Graduated	0	0	0.4			
	Total N	*786*					
1975	Cont.-average rate	45.3	45.3				
	Cont.-below average rate	36.4	25.0				
	Suspended	0	0				
	Withdrew	18.0	29.5				
	Graduated	0	0				
	Total N	*834*					
1976	Cont.-average rate	68.4					
	Cont.-below average rate	18.9					
	Suspended	0.5					
	Withdrew	12.0					
	Graduated	0					
	Total N	*738*					

TABLE 5

STATUS AT BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR SINCE ENTRY, FRESHMEN MALES

Cohort	Status at beginning of:	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
1971	Continuing	79.0%	68.4%	66.5%	28.8%	8.3%	5.1%
	Suspended	6.1	10.8	9.9	9.4	9.3	9.1
	Withdrew	14.8	20.6	22.6	28.1	28.5	27.0
	Graduated	0	0	0.6	33.5	53.6	58.6
	Total N	*1811*					
1972	Continuing	80.6	74.0	70.9	32.9	12.8	
	Suspended	5.4	6.0	5.4	5.4	5.3	
	Withdrew	13.8	19.9	23.1	29.5	29.5	
	Graduated	0	0	0.3	32.0	52.3	
	Total N	*1804*					
1973	Continuing	87.0	79.3	74.9	39.8		
	Suspended	0.9	1.8	2.3	2.3		
	Withdrew	12.0	18.8	22.5	28.8		
	Graduated	0	0	0.1	29.0		
	Total N	*1875*					
1974	Cont.-average rate	35.3	35.4	35.3			
	Cont.-below average rate	50.9	39.1	36.3			
	Suspended	0	0.9	0.8			
	Withdrew	13.6	24.4	27.1			
	Graduated	0	0	0.4			
	Total N	*2035*					
1975	Cont.-average rate	38.6	38.6				
	Cont.-below average rate	45.8	36.5				
	Suspended	0	0				
	Withdrew	15.5	24.8				
	Graduated	0	0				
	Total N	*1979*					
1976	Cont.-average rate	61.1					
	Cont.-below average rate	28.6					
	Suspended	0.6					
	Withdrew	9.4					
	Graduated	0					
	Total N	*1775*					

TABLE 6

STATUS AT BEGINNING OF 7th YEAR, BY SCHOOL OF INITIAL ENTRY (1971 COHOI

	AG&LS	DN	EDUC	ENGR	FOR	H&SS	PAMS	TEXT	TOTAL
Continuing - same school	3.3%	1.3%	0 %	3.6%	2.0%	3.1%	2.4%	4.4%	4.8%
Continuing - different school	1.4	1.3	0	1.1	1.3	1.5	3.6	1.8	
Suspended	6.4	2.5	9.4	9.6	10.1	9.1	7.8	2.6	8.1
Withdrew	30.6	27.3	32.4	22.5	29.6	39.4	28.9	32.1	29.5
Graduated - same school	40.6	44.1	27.0	44.5	47.3	32.0	26.1	53.5	57.4
Graduated - different school	17.4	23.4	31.0	18.1	9.4	14.5	30.8	5.3	
Total N	*420*	*77*	*74*	*725*	*148*	*446*	*321*	*112*	*2323*

TABLE 7

GRADUATION RATES AT BEGINNING OF 7th YEAR (1971 COHORT),
BY CHSR, SATV, SATM, UPGA, AND CGPA

Converted High School Rank (CHSR)	N	% Graduated (six years)	N of Black	Black % Gr.	University Predicted Grade Average (UPGA)	N	% Graduated (six years)	N of Black	Black % Gr.
71 - 80	181	72.4%	3	66.6%	3.5 - 4.00	0	- %	0	- %
61 - 70	951	64.4	21	66.6	3.0 - 3.49	40	79.9	0	-
51 - 60	1014	50.3	11	45.4	2.5 - 2.99	306	68.6	1	100.0
41 - 50	103	41.6	0	-	2.0 - 2.49	1030	61.8	20	64.9
31 - 40	9	22.1	0	-	1.6 - 1.99	873	48.6	14	57.1
20 - 30	0	0	0	-	0.0 - 1.59	34	32.3	0	-
SAT-Verbal (SATV)					Cumulative First-year Grade Point Average (CGPA)				
71 - 80	18	50.0%	0	- %	3.5 - 4.00	107	75.6%	0	- %
61 - 70	217	60.8	1	100.0	3.0 - 3.49	272	80.9	3	100.0
51 - 60	735	58.9	5	79.9	2.5 - 2.99	450	77.5	4	50.0
41 - 50	1035	57.6	17	64.6	2.0 - 2.49	551	68.9	11	90.9
31 - 40	275	51.9	12	50.0	1.6 - 1.99	341	58.3	9	55.5
20 - 30	4	50.0	0	-	0.0 - 1.59	432	22.4	8	25.0
SAT-Math (SATM)									
71 - 80	85	71.8%	0	- %					
61 - 70	558	61.3	3	33.3					
51 - 60	1118	57.9	17	58.8					
41 - 50	518	50.0	13	69.1					
31 - 40	23	73.9	2	100.0					
20 - 30	0	0	0	-					

TRANSFER STUDENTS

TABLE 8

1974 TRANSFER STUDENTS ENROLLMENT STATUS

Status at Beginning of	FR - SO Transfers Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	JR - SR Transfers Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Agriculture and Life Sciences		*N=103*			*N=53*	
Continuing - same school	74.8%	45.6%	15.5%	79.1%	18.8%	1.9%
Continuing - different school	8.6	5.8	2.9	3.8	3.8	0
Suspended	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0	0
Withdrawn	15.5	40.8	41.6	16.9	30.1	22.6
Graduated - same school	0	6.8	36.9	0	47.1	71.6
Graduated - different school	0	0	0	0	0	3.8
Design		*N=16*			*N=0*	
Continuing - same school	81.3	62.5	6.3	-	-	-
Continuing - different school	0	0	0	-	-	-
Suspended	0	0	0	-	-	-
Withdrawn	18.8	37.5	50.0	-	-	-
Graduated - same school	0	0	43.8	-	-	-
Graduated - different school	0	0	0	-	-	-
Education		*N=32*			*N=15*	
Continuing - same school	78.1	31.3	9.4	86.6	19.9	19.9
Continuing - different school	3.1	3.1	6.3	0	0	0
Suspended	3.1	3.1	3.1	0	0	0
Withdrawn	0	31.3	50.0	0	39.9	59.9
Graduated - same school	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graduated - different school	0	0	0	0	0	0
Engineering		*N=103*			*N=20*	
Continuing - same school	67.9	56.3	32.0	80.0	50.0	5.0
Continuing - different school	13.5	14.5	3.6	0	0	0
Suspended	0	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	18.4	27.1	31.0	15.0	25.0	20.0
Graduated - same school	0	1.9	24.3	5.0	25.0	75.0
Graduated - different school	0	0	3.9	0	0	0

Forest Resources		*N=59*			*N=18*	
Continuing - same school	74.5	64.4	11.8	94.4	22.1	0
Continuing - different school	11.8	11.8	8.4	5.5	5.5	0
Suspended	0	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	13.5	18.6	35.5	0	50.0	11.0
Graduated - same school	0	5.0	42.3	0	22.1	77.8
Graduated - different school	0	0	1.6	0	0	0
Humanities and Social Sciences		*N=139*			*N=58*	
Continuing - same school	60.4	38.8	13.6	55.1	15.5	3.4
Continuing - different school	6.4	7.1	7.1	12.0	6.9	0
Suspended	2.1	0.6	0.6	3.4	3.4	3.4
Withdrawn	30.9	47.4	51.0	20.6	29.3	29.3
Graduated - same school	0	5.8	25.9	8.5	43.0	56.9
Graduated - different school	0	0	1.4	0	1.6	6.9
Physical and Mathematical Sciences		*N=32*			*N=17*	
Continuing - same school	56.3	43.8	18.8	58.8	17.6	5.9
Continuing - different school	18.8	21.9	6.3	35.3	17.6	11.8
Suspended	3.1	3.1	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	21.9	31.3	31.3	5.9	47.0	17.6
Graduated - same school	0	0	25.0	0	17.6	52.9
Graduated - different school	0	0	18.8	0	0	11.8
Textiles		*N=20*			*N=15*	
Continuing - same school	50.0	25.0	10.0	46.6	0	0
Continuing - different school	10.0	10.0	10.0	6.6	6.6	0
Suspended	0	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	40.0	50.0	40.0	13.3	26.6	26.6
Graduated - same school	0	15.0	40.0	33.3	66.6	73.3
Graduated - different school	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 9

STATUS AT BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR SINCE ENTRY, FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORE TRANSFERS

Cohort	Status at beginning of:	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
1974	Cont.-Same School	67.7%	46.8%	17.3%
	Cont.-Different School	9.5	9.5	6.5
	Suspended	1.2	.8	.6
	Withdrawn	21.6	36.3	40.3
	Grad.-Same School	0	6.5	32.3
	Grad.-Different School	0	0	3.0
	Total N	*504*		
1975	Cont.-Same School	72.9	58.1	
	Cont.-Different School	4.6	5.9	
	Suspended	0	0	
	Withdrawn	22.6	32.3	
	Grad.-Same School	0	3.6	
	Grad.-Different School	0	0	
	Total N	*439*		
1976	Cont.-Same School	71.6		
	Cont.-Different School	11.3		
	Suspended	.7		
	Withdrawn	16.3		
	Grad.-Same School	0		
	Grad.-Different School	0		
	Total N	*141*		

TABLE 10

STATUS AT BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR SINCE ENTRY, JUNIOR & SENIOR TRANSFERS

Cohort	Status at Beginning of:	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
1974	Cont.-Same School	69.9%	19.9%	4.1%
	Cont.-Different School	8.7	5.6	1.0
	Suspended	1.0	1.0	1.0
	Withdrawn	14.8	33.2	23.0
	Grad.-Same School	5.6	39.8	65.8
	Grad.-Different School	-	.5	5.1
	Total N	*196*		
1975	Cont.-Same School	76.5	29.5	
	Cont.-Different School	3.2	4.6	
	Suspended	0	0	
	Withdrawn	16.1	30.9	
	Grad.-Same School	4.1	34.6	
	Grad.-Different School	0	.5	
	Total N	*217*		
1976	Cont.-Same School	78.8		
	Cont.- Different School	7.1		
	Suspended	0		
	Withdrawn	8.8		
	Grad.-Same School	5.3		
	Grad.-Different School	0		
	Total N	*113*		